IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A display device comprising:

a light transmitting member comprising first and second surfaces;

a cantilever disposed on the light transmitting member;

~~a light transmitting material~~ a plate-like transparent elastic member which faces the second surface with a gap therebetween and comprises a first end supported by the cantilever and a second end;

a light source that irradiates the first surface of said light transmitting member with light; and

a control mechanism configured to change a contact state of said ~~light transmitting material~~ plate-like transparent elastic member with respect to the second surface of said light transmitting member on an optical path of the light,

wherein said display device is configured to cause at least a portion of the light emitted by said light source and irradiating said light transmitting member to be output as a light component having directivity from said light transmitting member onto a scattering surface without scattering said light component, said scattering surface spaced apart from said light transmitting member and said control mechanism, and said light component is used to display images, and

wherein ~~the control mechanism is capable of changing a value of a contact area, in which the light transmitting material is in contact with the second surface of the light~~

~~transmitting member, among at least three values~~ the display device switches the contact state of the plate-like transparent elastic member with respect to the second surface among at least first, second, and third states according to a grayscale image to be displayed, the first state being a state in which the plate-like transparent elastic member is spaced apart from the second surface, the second state being a state in which the plate-like transparent elastic member is deformed such that a portion of the plate-like transparent elastic member on a side of the second end is in contact with the second surface, and the third state being a state in which the plate-like transparent elastic member is further deformed such that a surface area of the plate-like transparent elastic member which is in contact with the second surface is larger than that in the second state.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 15, wherein images are displayed by using an intensity change of light transmitted through the second surface.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 15, wherein images are displayed by using an intensity change of light reflected by the second surface.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 15, further comprising the scattering surface that scatters the light component output from said light transmitting member.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A display device comprising:

a light transmitting member comprising first and second surfaces;

an elastic member made of a light transmitting material and comprising a surface which faces the second surface and is provided with tapered projections;

a beam disposed on the light transmitting member and supporting a periphery of the elastic member;

a light source that irradiates the first surface of said light transmitting member with light; and

a ~~plurality of control mechanisms arrayed on said light transmitting member and each~~ control mechanism configured to change a contact state of said ~~light transmitting material~~ elastic member with respect to the second surface of said light transmitting member on an optical path of the light,

wherein said display device is configured to cause at least a portion of the light emitted by said light source and irradiating said light transmitting member to be output as a light component having directivity from said light transmitting member onto a scattering surface without scattering said light component, said scattering surface spaced apart from said light transmitting member and said control mechanism, and said light component is used to display images, and

wherein ~~each of the control mechanisms is capable of changing a value of a contact area, in which the light transmitting material is in contact with the second surface of the light transmitting member, among at least three values~~ the display device switches the contact state of the elastic member with respect to the second surface among at least first, second, and third states according to a grayscale image to be displayed, the first state being a state in which the elastic member is spaced apart from the second surface, the second state being a state in which the elastic member is pressed against the second surface such that each height of the tapered

projections decreases, and the third state being a state in which the elastic member is pressed against the second surface such that the tapered projections disappear.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 22, wherein images are displayed by using an intensity change of light transmitted through the second surface.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 22, wherein images are displayed by using an intensity change of light reflected by the second surface.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 22, further comprising the scattering surface that scatters the light component output from said light transmitting member.

Claims 29-49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Currently Amended) A display method comprising irradiating a light transmitting member that comprises first and second surfaces with light from a light source and changing a contact state of ~~a light transmitting material~~ a plate-like transparent elastic member with respect to the second surface of said light transmitting member on an optical path of the light,

wherein the plate-like transparent elastic member faces the second surface with a gap therebetween and comprises first and second ends, the first end being supported by a cantilever

disposed on the light transmitting member,

wherein at least a portion of the light incident into said light transmitting member from said light source is output as a light component having directivity from said light transmitting member onto a scattering surface without being scattered, said scattering surface spaced apart from said light transmitting member and said light transmitting material, and said light component is used to display images,

wherein irradiating the light transmitting member with light comprises irradiating the first surface of the light transmitting member with light, and

wherein changing the contact state comprises ~~changing a value of a contact area, in which the light transmitting material is in contact with the second surface of the light transmitting member, among at least three values~~ switching the contact state of the plate-like transparent elastic member with respect to the second surface among at least first, second, and third states according to a grayscale image to be displayed, the first state being a state in which the plate-like transparent elastic member is spaced apart from the second surface, the second state being a state in which the plate-like transparent elastic member is deformed such that a portion of the plate-like transparent elastic member on a side of the second end is in contact with the second surface, and the third state being a state in which the plate-like transparent elastic member is further deformed such that a surface area of the plate-like transparent elastic member which is in contact with the second surface is larger than that in the second state.

Claims 51-59 (Canceled).

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 15, wherein the first surface is provided with depressions.

Claim 61-63 (Cancelled)

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 22, wherein the first surface is provided with depressions.

Claim 65 (New): A display method comprising irradiating a light transmitting member that comprises first and second surfaces with light from a light source and changing a contact state of an elastic member made of a light transmitting material with respect to the second surface of said light transmitting member on an optical path of the light,

wherein the elastic member comprises a surface which faces the second surface and is provided with tapered projections,

wherein at least a portion of the light incident into said light transmitting member from said light source is output as a light component having directivity from said light transmitting member onto a scattering surface without being scattered, said scattering surface spaced apart from said light transmitting member and said light transmitting material, and said light component is used to display images,

wherein irradiating the light transmitting member with light comprises irradiating the first surface of the light transmitting member with light, and

wherein changing the contact state comprises switching the contact state of the elastic member with respect to the second surface among at least first, second, and third states according to a grayscale image to be displayed, the first state being a state in which the elastic member is spaced apart from the second surface, the second state being a state in which the elastic member is pressed against the second surface such that each height of the tapered

projections decreases, and the third state being a state in which the elastic member is pressed against the second surface such that the tapered projections disappear.